

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

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P R 241200 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9477

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 DACCA 1771

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR BG PK

SUBJ: BANGLADESH REACTION TO ISLAMABAD STATEMENT

TEHRAN FOR CHARGE NEWBERRY

SUMMARY: BDG BELIEVES ITS COMMENTS ON PAKISTAN STATEMENT RE JOINT DECLARATION SHOWED RESTRAINT. WHAT BDG REGARDER AS PROVOCATIVE ELEMENTS IN GOP STATEMENT, (E. G., REJECTION WAR CRIMES TRIALS, EXCLUSIVE REFERENCE TO DELHI) LARGELY IGNORED, SAVE FOR STRONG RIPOSTE ON GO THREAT TO TRY STRANDED BENGALIS IF BDG LLW CRIMES TRIALS PROCEED. BDG TRYING TO FOCUS ON HUMANITARIAN PROBLEM BUT GIVES LITTLE INDICATION OF MUCH WILLINGNESS NEGOTIATE MODALITIES TRIALS OR TRANSFER BIHARIS, NOR DOES THERE SEEM MUCH INTEREST IN BARGAINING FOR RECOGNITION, WHICH MANOW NO LONGER HELD AS CRITICAL.

1. STRANDED BENGALIS - IN DISCUSSION WITH CHARGE APRIL 24, FOREIGN SECRETARY ENAYET KARIM INDICATED THAT OFFICIAL
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BDG SPOKESMAN' S COMMENT ON ISLAMABAD STATEMENT APRIL 20 (YC DACCA 1758) WAS AS RESTRAINED AS BDG FELT IT COULD MAKE IT. " BALD THREAT" TO TRY STRANDED BENGALLEES COULD NOT PASS WITHOUT COMMENT, KARIM SAID. EQUATION BETWEEN THOSE BENGALLEES AND POWS CHARGED WITH WAR CRIMES PARTICULARLY REPUGNANT. YET BDG DID NOT " TAKE OFFENSE" IN SPOKESMAN' S COMMENT; IT ONLY TOOK " SERIOUS VIEW".

2. KARIM ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SOME BENGALLEE OFFICIALS MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN HELPFUL TO ISLAMABAD REGIME WHILE CONTINUING IN EMPLOYMENT, BUT AT SAME TIME THEY WERE NOT HELPFUL TO LIBERATION MOVEMENT EITHER. CHARGES OF TREASON WOULD BE WAY OUT OF LINE. KARIM WENT ON TO REPORT THAT ACCORDING TO BDG INFORMATIONGF SOME 2000 BENGALLEES HAVE ALREADY BEEN TRIED, CONVICTED AND IMPRISONED. ON QUESTIONING, HE ADMITTED THAT CHARGES RELATED TO EFFORTS BY BENGALLEES TO DEPART PAKISTAN ILLEGALLY.

3. KARIM SAID BDG DID NOT WISH TO EMOTIONALIZE PLIGHT OF STRANDED BENGALLEES. IT COULD HAVE ORGANIZED THEIR FAMILIES IN DACCA TO GREET SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM ON HIS ARRIVAL HERE, AS POW FAMILIES WERE ORGANIZED IN ISLAMABAD. BDG ALSO COULD HAVE RUN ADS IN U. S. NEWSPAPERS LIKE THE PAK POW ADS. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO KARIM, THEIR INTENTION IS NOT TO SHARPEN CONFRONTATION OVER STRANDED BENGALLEES BUT TO WORK TO RESOLVE WHAT IS BASICALLY A HUMANITARIAN PROBLEM.

4. BIHARIS - HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS REPRESENTED BY STRANDED BENGALLEES IN PAKISTAN, " PAKISTANIS" IN BANGLADESH, AND POWS IN INDIA NOT CHARGED WITH WAR CRIMES TRIALS, WERE SUI GENERIS: NONE COULD BE EQUATED WITH THE OTHER. KARIM DENIED THAT QUESTION OF BIHARIS WAS RAISED IN JOINT DECLARATION TO BALANCE THE STRANDED BENGALLEES. HE CLAIMED INTRODUCTION OF THIS SUBJECT WAS NOT A SUDDEN INTERJECTION, POINTING OUT THAT MUJIB ON HIS RETURN TO BANGLADESH IN EARLY 1972 HAD ASSERTED THAT THEY CAN STAY AS BENGALLEES OR LEAVE AS PAKISTANIS. BDG ALSO POLLED THE BIHARIYZTO DETERMINE THEIR WISHES. IN CONTRAST WITH WHAT FOREIGN MINISTER HAD TOLD U. K. HICOM (DACCA 1731), KARIM GAVE NO INDICATION THAT BDG WOULD BACK DOWN ON ITS DEMAND

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THAT PAKISTAN ACCEPT LESS THAN THE 260,000 WHO REPORTEDLY HAVE OPTED TO GO TO THAT COUNTRY.

5. WAR CRIMES TRIALS - KARIM INDICATED BDG WAS RESOLUTELY PROCEEDING WITH TRIALS, WHICH HE SAID WOULD TAKE PLACE LATE MAY, " GIV OR TAKE TEN DAYS". SAID BDG WAS NOT SEEKING VENGEANCE, ONLY JUSTICE. ARGUES THAT BENGALLEES

WERE NOT VINDICTIVE PEOPLE. MENTIONED AS HE HAS IN THE PAST THAT RETRIBUTION AGAINST BIHARIS HAS NOT BEEN EXACTED SINCE EARLY DAYS AFTER WAR; SLOWLY RELATIONS BETWEEN URDU- SPEAKERS AND BENGALI- SPEAKERS IMPROVING. GOVERNMENT WAS CONCERNED BY INITIAL BLOOD- LETT FG FOLLOWING WAR; KARIM, THEN CHARGE IN WASHINGTON, SAID HE ASSOCIATED HIMSELF WITH PROTESTS AGAINST KILLING OF BIHARI COLLABORATORS MADE FROM U. S. BY SUPPORTERS BD LIBERATION MOVEMENT.

6. MODALITIES REGARDING WAR CRIMES TRIALS NOT AS NEGOTIABLE AS KARIM HAD INTIMATED HAD BEEN CASE LAST AUTUMN. KARIM SAID SITE WOULD DEFINITELY BE BD. BDG HAD STATED WILLINGNESS TO ADMIT FOREIGN OBSERVERS FOR TRIALS AND FOREIGN COUNSEL FOR ACCUSED, BUT KARIM SAID BD WAS NOT YET READY TO CONCEDE THAT " FOREIGN" CATEGORY WOULD INCLUDE PAKISTANI JURISTS AND LAWYERS; THIS WOULD DEPEND ON EVOLUTION OF OTHER THINGS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 DACCA 1771

TEHRAN FOR CHARGE NEWBERRY

7. GENERAL ATTITUDE.

RIM STATED BDG DID NOT WISH TO BE

CONTENTIOUS IN THE OFFICIAL COMMENT ON PAKISTAN STATEMENT -- TO ANSWER LEGALISMS WITH FURTHER LEGALISMS.

(LEGALISTIC NATURE OF GQLOP STATEMENT ASCRIBED BY PNDIDC
DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER TO ASCENDENCY INFLUENCE AZIZ
AHMED OVER RAFI RAZA, WHOM INDIANS HOLD MUCH MORE REASON-
ABLE, LESS RIGID.) KARIM REITERATED BDG DESIRE TO
MOVE FORWARD ON HUMANITARIAN FRONT AND SAID IT WOULD
HAVE NO OBJECTION TO INDIANS GOING TO ISLAMABAD AS IN-
VITED BY GOP TO CLARIFY IMPLICATIONS OF JOINT DECLARATION.

8. KARIM DOWNPLAYED INTEREST OF BDG IN GAINING RECOG-
NITION FROM PAKISTAN. WITH SO MANY OTHER NATIONS HAVING
RECOGNIZED BD, THIS NO LONGER WAS CRITICAL. GOP COULD
HAVE PERCEIVED THIS CLEARLY FROM MUJIB' S SPEECH DECEMBER
1 . 1972, ON FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF LIBERATION.

9. COMMENT: NOT SURPRISINGLY KARIM STICKS TO BASIC BDG
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POSITION OF LONG STANDING, I. E., INNOCENT STRANDED
BENGALEES CANNOT BE EQUATED WITH POWS. HARD TO BELIEVE
HOWEVER THAT EXPERIENCED DIPLOMAT LIKE KARIM NOT AWARE
THAT IN PRACTICAL TERMS THERE IS BOUND TO BE SOME QUID
PRO QUO.

10. WHILE THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE LOCAL EMOTING OVER STRANDED
BENGALEES IN RECENT MONTHS, IT WAS ALMOST A CONTINUING
FEATURE IN DACCA DURING FALL OF '72. EMBASSY ITSELF
RECEIVED NO LESS THAN FOUR DELEGATIONS OF LOCAL LADIES
PLEADING FOR US ASSISTANCE. NOT CLEAR WHY SUCH
DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE TAPERED OFF RECENTLY.

11. KARIMDJS ASSERTION THAT PAK RECOGNITION NO LONGER
IMPORTANT IS BY ALL LOGIC CORRECT. NEVERTHELESS FOR MANY
BENGALEES SUCH RECOGNITION PSYCHOLOGICALLY VITAL AS FINAL
SEAL OF APPROVAL FOR INDEPENDENT BANGLADESH.
FULLER

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